

## USES OF VERB TENSES

### SIMPLE PRESENT

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- 1.- When we talk about a present moment: *I'm in Albacete now.*
- 2.- We use it to talk about things in general: *I have got two brothers.*
- 3.- To say that something happens all the time or is a habit (every day life): *I smoke.*
- 4.- When something is always true: *Madrid is the capital of Spain.*
- 5.- We can use it with a future meaning when we're talking about planned actions, timetables or programs: *The train leaves London at night.*

### PRESENT CONTINUOUS

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- 1.- When we talk about something which is happening at the time of speaking:  
*It's raining now* (activity in progress)
- 2.- When we talk about a period about the present:  
*You are working hard today / This week I'm reading an interesting book.*
- 3.- For eventual actions: *I'm living here until I can find a better flat.*
- 4.- When we talk about changing situations: *The population is rising very fast.*
- 5.- When we talk about what we have already arranged to do (planned intention)  
*What are you doing tomorrow? I'm going to the cinema.*
- 6.- For immediate future: *Be careful! The ice is going to break.*

verbs which cannot be used in continuous forms:

- 1.- VERBS OF OPINION: *think* (when it means "creer", because when it means "pensar" it's possible to use in a continuous way) - *believe* - *know* - *forget* - *recognize* - *suppose* - *understand* - *remember* - *realize* - *imagine* - *mean*.
- 2.- VERBS OF FEELING: *want* - *like* - *love* - *hate* - *prefer* - *wish*.
- 3.- VERBS OF PERCEPTION: *see* (when it means "ver", but you can use it in continuous tenses when it means "reunirse con"[1]) - *hear* - *smell* - *taste*.
- 4.- VERBS OF RELATION: *have* (when it means "poseer", but when it means "experimentar", you can use it in continuous forms [2]) - *own* - *contain* - *cost* - *sound* - *seem* - *belong* - *include* - *weigh* - *appear* - *need*.

[1] *I'm seeing a friend tomorrow.* [2] *Susan is having a lot of problems.*

### SIMPLE PAST

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- 1.- It's used when the past happening is related to a definite time in the past, which we may call "then" (it started in the past and finished in the past):  
*He finished school 15 years ago.*
- 2.- To organize several actions in the past (one after another):  
*She opened the door, looked at the man and said*

### PAST CONTINUOUS

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- 1.- We use it to say that someone is in the middle of doing something at a certain time in the past. The action or situation had already started before, but it hadn't finished. If the action is interrupted by a complete action, in this case we have to use a verb in simple past: *Tom **was cooking** the dinner when the telephone **rang**. Tom **cooked** the dinner* (he was and finished it).
- 2.- For two incomplete actions taking place simultaneously:  
*Peter was listening to music while Tom was cooking.*

### PRESENT PERFECT

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1.- It's used when the speaker is referring to something which begins in the past and continues up to the moment of speaking (or recently).

If I say I have lost my key, you think that I haven't got it now, but if I say I lost my key, it was in a punctual moment in the past without connection with the present.

2.- In my life ..... up to now.... I have been to many countries. I've been to Italy...

We use it when we speak in a no definite time.

In this example we can use "been" as the past participle of "go". It means "travelled to and return from".

3.- When the result of a past action is connected to the present. The "news" use:

Tim has fallen again and is holding his leg.

### PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

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It's used with action verbs when you want to explain the idea of activity in progress in the pre-present period. It refers to activities continuing until now or recently.

*It has been raining, but it was stopped now.*

### PAST PERFECT

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It's used to make clear which event in a sequence precede which. (past in the past). It's when we're talking about the past and want to refer to an earlier time in the past: *I **opened** my eyes and the snake **had disappeared**.*

### PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

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It's for activity in progress in a previous moment of the past:

*I **had been driving** for 3 hours, so I was tired this day.*

### SIMPLE FUTURE

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1.- For predictions: *Tomorrow is going to snow.*

2.- When you decide something in the very moment: *I'll have a salad to start with.*

### FUTURE CONTINUOUS

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To talk about activities that will be in progress at a particular time in the future:

*In the year 2020, we will be living on the moon.*

### FUTURE PERFECT

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To talk about activities that will be finished before a particular time in the future. We often use this tense with time phrases beginning with **by** (which means *before*)

*By the year 2050, Spain will have won the World Cup.*